

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /166 W

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R 291437 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6707

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT NO

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY LEADERS WILLING TO RETURN TO POWER
IN NORWAY

REFS: (A) OSLO 1982 (B) OSLO 1270

BEGIN SUMMARY. SURVIVAL PROSPECTS FOR THE MINORITY COALITION GOVT OF LARS KORVALD LOOK EVEN SLIMMER AS LABOR PARTY LEADERS, ADDRESSING THEIR PARTY' S NATIONAL CONVENTION, HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR DESIRE TO RETURN TO POWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN ITS INVESTIGATION ON MAY 29 INTO THE CROTALE MISSILE-COMMON MARKET NEGOTIATIONS AFFAIR. UNLESS GOVT OFFICIALS
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CAN CONVINCE THE COMMITTEE-- AND PARTICULARLY CHAIRMAN
HELGE SEIP-- THAT THEIR HANDLING OF THE MATTER WAS JUSTI-
FIED, A MOTION OF NO- CONFIDENCE SEEMS LIKELY TO COME NEXT
WEEK, PROVIDING THE VEHICLE FOR LABOR' S RETURN TO POWER
BEFORE PARLIAMENT' S SUMMER RECESS. END SUMMARY

1. LABOR PARTY LEADERS, GATHERED IN OSLO FOR THE PARTY' S
BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION, HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THEY
ARE WILLING TO HELP OVERTHROW THE PRESENT GOVT AND RETURN
TO POWER AT ANY TIME. IN A SERIES OF HARD- HITTING SPEECHES,
TOP LABOR SPOKESMEN ATTACKED THE GOVT OF PRIMIN LARS
KORVALD FOR ITS ALLEGED FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF
PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT. A FEW SPEAKERS EXPRESSED DOUBTS
AS TO THE WISDOM OF SEEKING TO TURN OUT KORVALD NOW AND
URGED THAT THE LABOR PARTY CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON WINNING
A MAJORITY IN THE SEPTEMBER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.
BUT THE ADVOCATES OF AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO POWER CLEARLY
HAD THE SUPPORT OF A LARGE MAJORITY OF CONVENTION DELEGATES.

2. MEANWHILE, THE STORTING (PARLIAMENT) FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ITS INVESTIGATION TODAY
(MAY 29) INTO THE GOVT' S HANDLING OF THE CROTALE MISSILE
AFFAIR AND THE TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COM-
MON MARKET (REFTELS). THE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO HAVE
A REPORT READY FOR THE STORTING BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. WITH
THE LABOR PARTY APPARENTLY PREPARED TO RETURN TO POWER
AT A MOMENT' S NOTICE, THE KORVALD GOVT' S SURVIVAL NOW
HINGES ON WHETHER ITS SPOKESMEN CAN CONVINCE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN HELGE SEIP (NEW PEOPLE' S PARTY) THAT THEIR HAND-
LING OF THE CROTALE AFFAIR WAS JUSTIFIED. IF THEY
FAIL IN THIS EFFORT AND THE COMMITTEE ISSUES A HIGHLY
CRITICAL REPORT TO THE STORTING, A SUCCESSFUL MOTION OF
NO- CONFIDENCE SUPPORTED BY THE LABOR PARTY AND THE NEW
PEOPLE' S PARTY WOULD BE THE LIKELY RESULT, FOLLOWED BY
THE FORMATION OF A MINORITY LABOR PARTY GOVT HEADED BY
TRYGVE BRATTELI. CROWE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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